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23
AUG '95
THUNDER STRIKE
THINGS JUST GOT UGLY!
DIRECT EDITION
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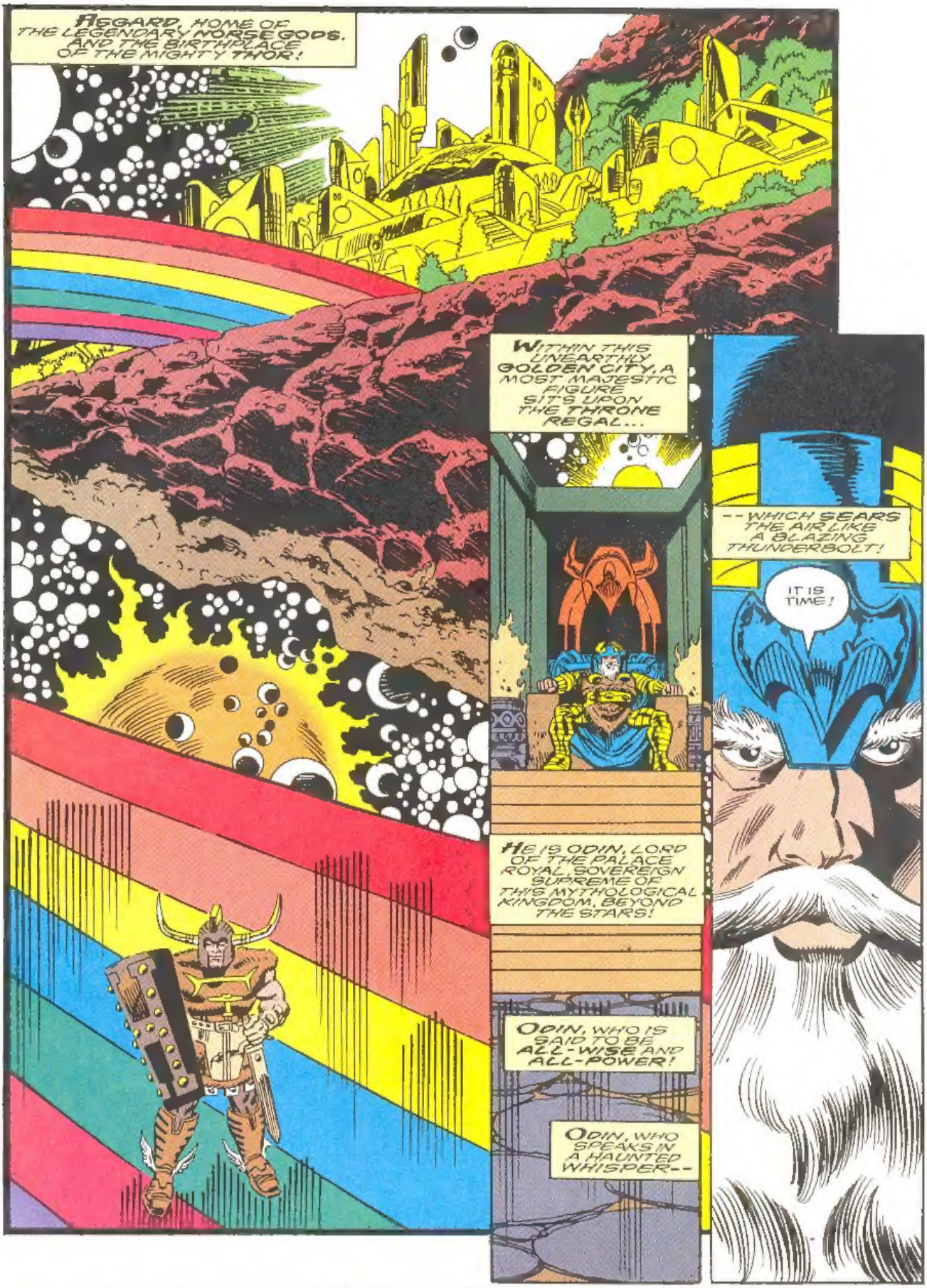
FRENZ-MINKOFF (after FRENZ-MINKOFF (after SIMONSON))



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WHAT TROUBLES THEE, MILORD? WHAT IS IT THAT FURROWS THY CELESTIAL BROW?
HAST THOU--IN THINE INFINITE WISDOM--PERCEIVED SOME GRIEVOUS THREAT--TO THE REALM ETERNAL?!
'TIS NOT A MERE KINGDOM WHICH STANDS AT RISK THIS DAY, NOBLE VIZIER...

THE PRIZE IS BOTH CONSIDERABLY LESS--
--AND YET, ALL THE GREATER!
A COSMIC DRAMA, WHICH I HAVE LONG DREADED, RACES HEADLONG TOWARD ITS INEVITABLE CLIMAX!
THE DIE IS ALREADY CAST! ITS FATEFUL COURSE ALREADY SET!

AND NOW... ALL MUST PLAY THEIR ASSIGNED ROLES IN THIS UNFOLDING TRAGEDY!
LET MY KINGLY ROBES BE REMOVED!
DIVEST ME OF ALL STATELY RAIMENT!

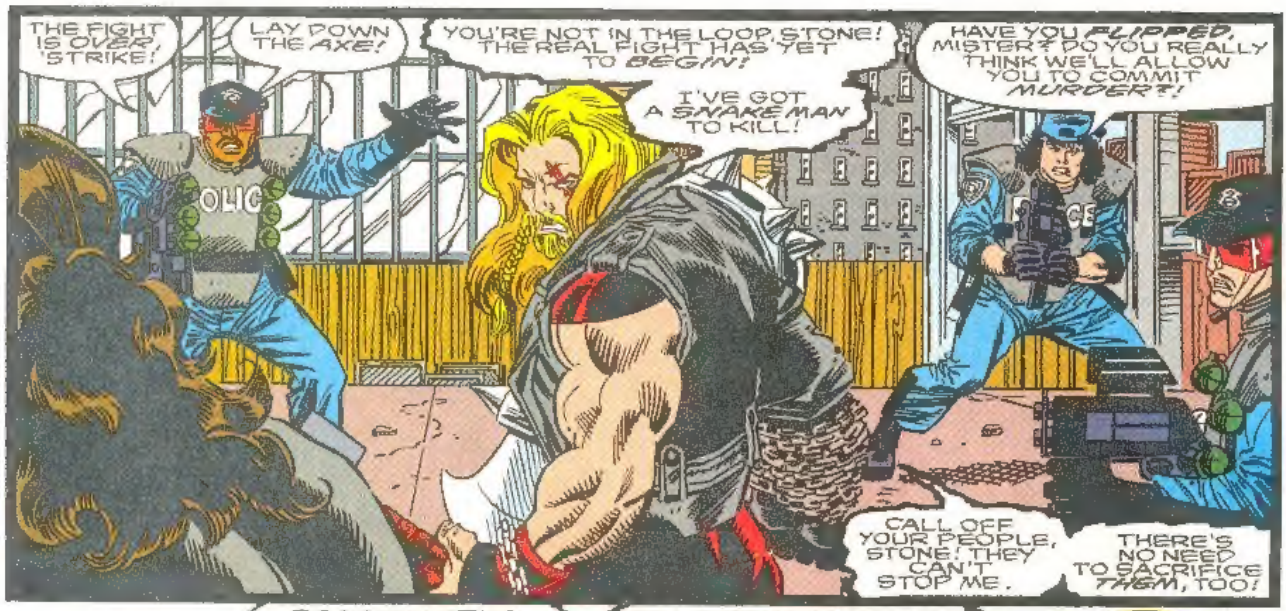
MILORD, THOU HAST TAKEN ON THE GUISE OF A HUMBLE TRAVELER!
AYE! ODIN'S NEEDS MUST MOVE BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF ASGARD!

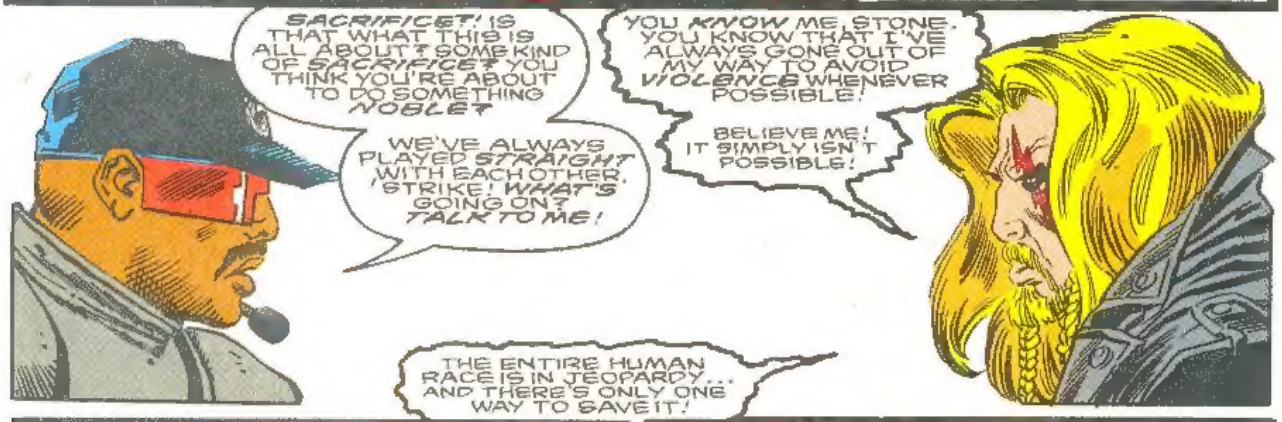
THE TIME IS COME...
FOR ME TO SEEK THE ONE!
WHAT TIME IS THAT, SIRE?

WHEN ARCHITECT ERIC MASTERSON STAMPS HIS WOODEN WALKING STICK UPON THE GROUND, IT IS TRANSFORMED INTO A MYSTICAL WEAPON CALLED THUNDERSTRIKE! ARMED WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS, MASTERSON WORKS TO PROVE THAT ONE MAN MUST MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BECAUSE THIS WORLD STILL NEEDS HEROES! STAN LEE PRESENTS ...

THUNDERSTRIKE!

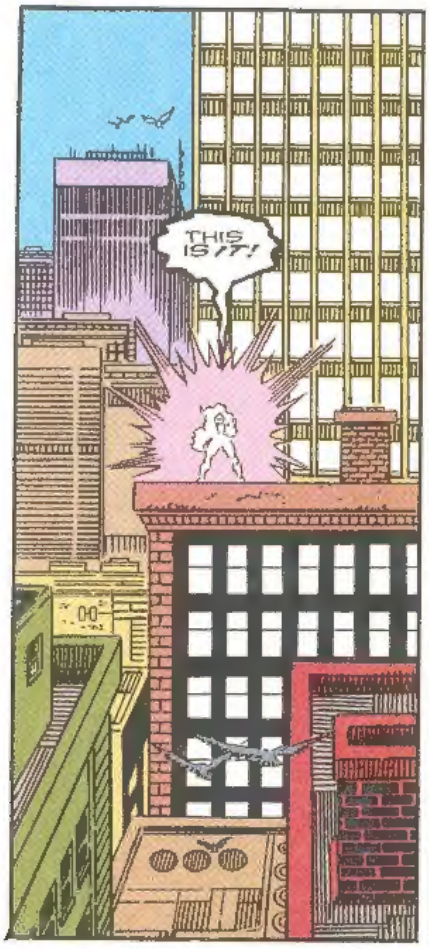
RON FRENZ • TOM DE FALCO • AL MILGROM • JANICE CHIANG • JOHNSON & BECTON • RALPH MACCHIO • MARK GRUENWALD
PENCILS, PLOT & SCRIPT • FINISHED ART • LETTERS • COLORS • EDITOR • EDITOR IN CHIEF

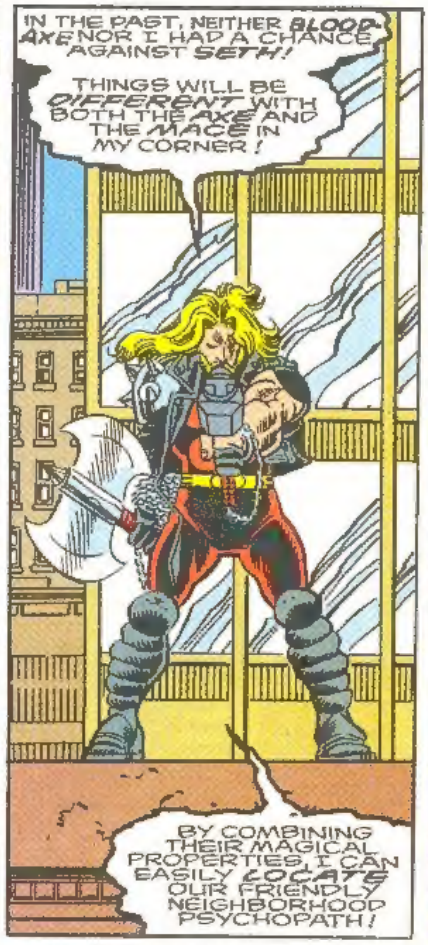

THE FIGHT IS OVER, STRIKE!
LAY DOWN THE AXE!
YOU'RE NOT IN THE LOOP, STONE! THE REAL FIGHT HAS YET TO BEGIN!
I'VE GOT A SNAKE MAN TO KILL!
HAVE YOU FLIPPED, MISTER? DO YOU REALLY THINK WE'LL ALLOW YOU TO COMMIT MURDER?!
CALL OFF YOUR PEOPLE, STONE! THEY CAN'T STOP ME.
THERE'S NO NEED TO SACRIFICE THEM, TOO!

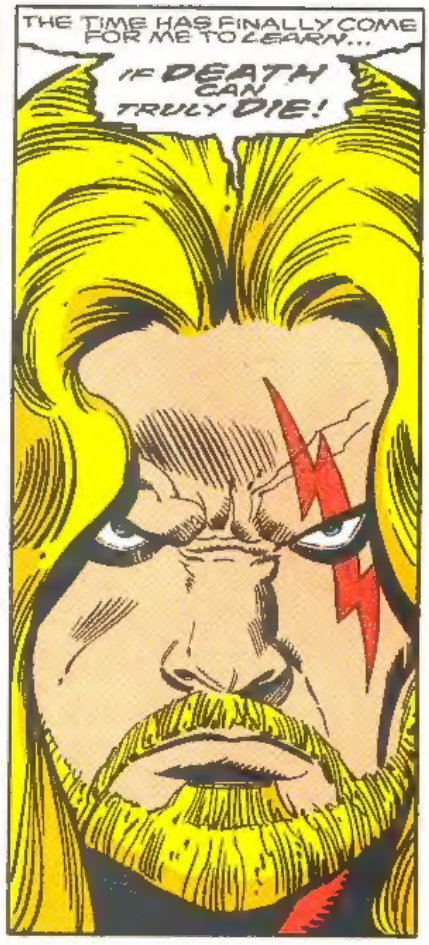

SACRIFICE? IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT? SOME KIND OF SACRIFICE? YOU THINK YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING NOBLE?
WE'VE ALWAYS PLAYED STRAIGHT WITH EACH OTHER, STRIKE! WHAT'S GOING ON? TALK TO ME!
YOU KNOW ME, STONE. YOU KNOW THAT I'VE ALWAYS GONE OUT OF MY WAY TO AVOID VIOLENCE WHENEVER POSSIBLE!
BELIEVE ME! IT SIMPLY ISN'T POSSIBLE!
THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE IS IN JEOPARDY... AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE IT!

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP...
CALL THE AVENGERS!
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
ALL UNITS HOLD YOUR FIRE!

HOPE YOU MADE THE RIGHT CALL, LIEUTENANT! THAT THING HE SAID...
COULD IT BE TRUE?
I...I WISH I KNEW, RIGGER!
MOTHER... PATCH ME THROUGH TO AVENGERS MANSION!
THIS TRANSMISSION IS PRIORITY A-1! WE'VE GOT A REAL DOOZY FOR THEM!


THIS IS IT!


IN THE PAST, NEITHER BLOOD-AXE NOR I HAD A CHANCE AGAINST SETH!
THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT WITH BOTH THE AXE AND THE MACE IN MY CORNER!
BY COMBINING THEIR MAGICAL PROPERTIES, I CAN EASILY LOCATE OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD PSYCHOPATH!


THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME FOR ME TO LEARN...
IF DEATH CAN TRULY DIE!

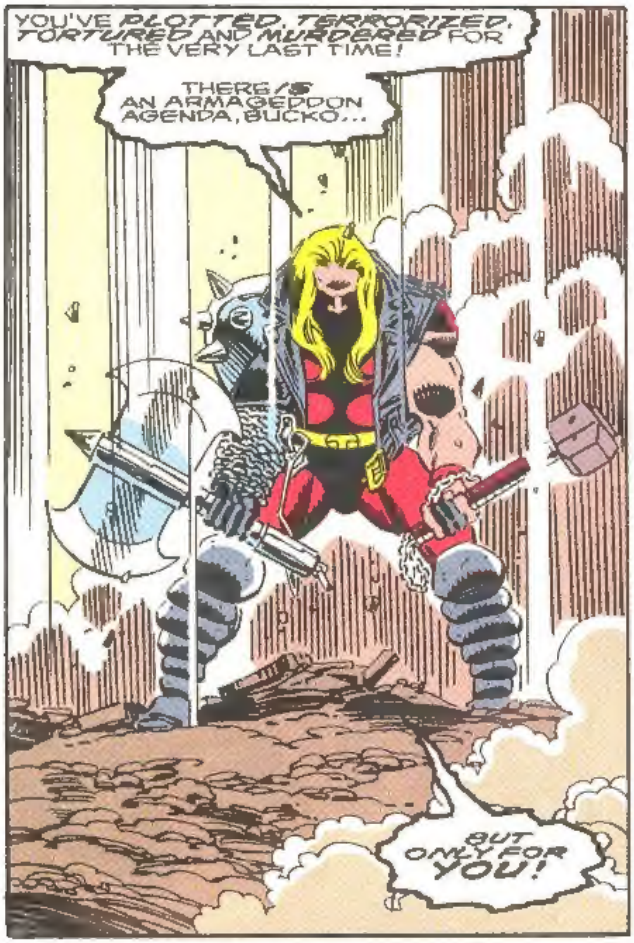
YOU HEARD ME!
EXECUTE EVACUATION PLAN OMEGA!

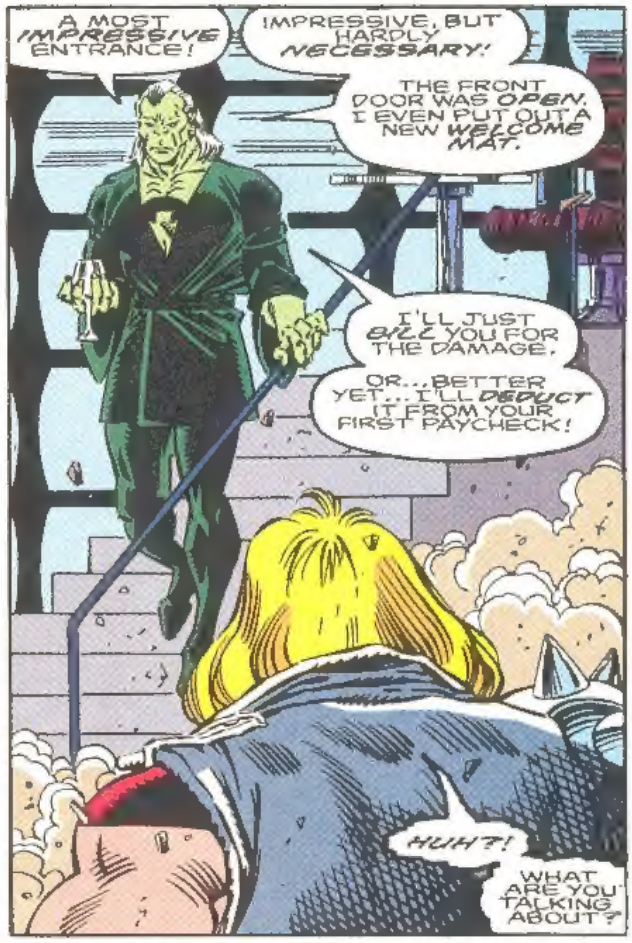
F-FORGIVE ME, MASTER! I DO NOT MEAN TO QUESTION YOUR ORDERS, BUT WE JUST BUILT THIS NEW HEADQUARTERS...
THAT'S TRUE!
HOWEVER, I WANT YOU TO ABANDON IT!
GO! LEAVE ME! CLEAR THIS BASE AT ONCE!

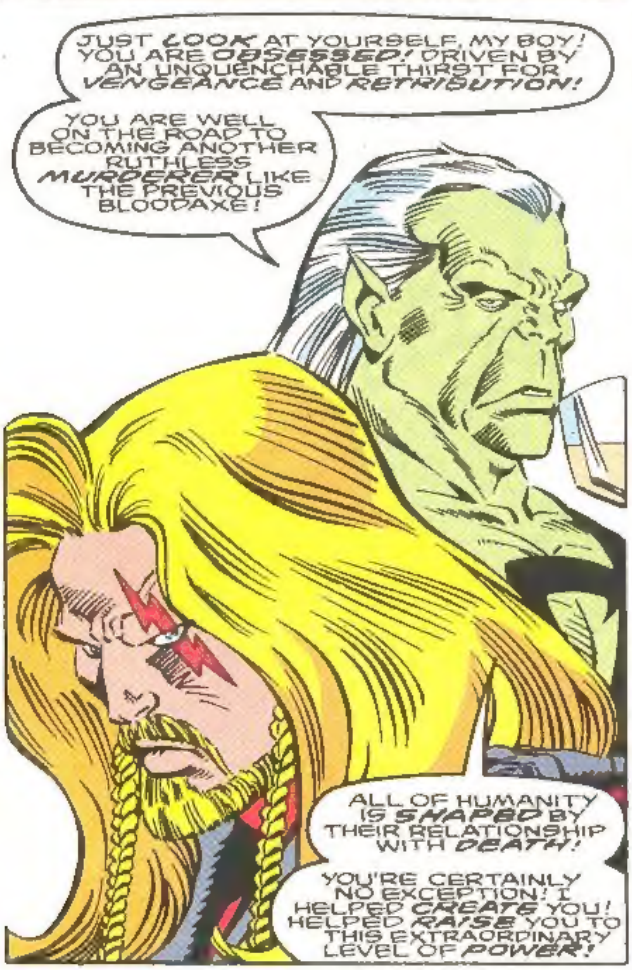
I'M EXPECTING A MOST SPECIAL GUEST...
AND WE MUST NOT BE DISTURBED!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, FAR ACROSS TOWN...
MEMORI
EMER
AMBULANCE
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE TREATING MY CLIENT LIKE SOME KIND OF CRIMINAL, CAPTAIN CONKLIN.
JACKIE LUKUS IS THE VICTIM HERE!
MS. JOYCE IS RIGHT, CAPTAIN! WE HAVE TO TREAT JACKIE'S DEPENDENCE ON THE BLOODAXE AS AN ADDICTION!
SHE NEEDS INTENSIVE THERAPY... NOT A JAIL TERM!
IS THAT YOUR EXPERT OPINION, DR. PARETSKY?
SHE ISN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR A SINGLE MURDER WHICH SHE IS ALLEGED TO HAVE COMMITTED AS BLOODAXE!
THE REAL GUILTY PARTY IS... THE AXE!
YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN ADVISED OF YOUR RIGHTS, MISS LUKUS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.
IS THIS REALLY THE WAY YOU WANT TO GO?!
THANKS FOR ASKING, CAPTAIN.
THIS ENTIRE CONVERSATION IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME!
SETH HAS AN ARMAGEDDON AGENDA.
HE MEANS TO EXTERMINATE THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!
THUNDERSTRIKE HAS THE AXE! I CAN SENSE IT!
AND HE'S DUMB ENOUGH TO BELIEVE HE CAN TAKE ON SERPENT-FACE BY HIMSELF!
YOU MUST RELEASE ME AT ONCE! I'VE GOT TO HELP!
SETH IS TOO POWERFUL! TOO DANGEROUS!
LET ME GO, OR THUNDERSTRIKE WILL DIE--
--AND HE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF MISGUIDED COMPANY!

MEANWHILE...
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
SHROOM!
TIME TO DIE, GREENIE!


YOU'VE PLOTTED, TERRORIZED, TORTURED AND MURDERED FOR THE VERY LAST TIME!
THERE IS AN ARMAGEDDON AGENDA, BUCKO...
BUT ONLY FOR YOU!


A MOST IMPRESSIVE ENTRANCE!
IMPRESSIVE, BUT HARDLY NECESSARY!
THE FRONT DOOR WAS OPEN. I EVEN PUT OUT A NEW WELCOME MAT.
I'LL JUST BILL YOU FOR THE DAMAGE.
OR...BETTER YET... I'LL DEDUCT IT FROM YOUR FIRST PAYCHECK!
HUH?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


JUST LOOK AT YOURSELF, MY BOY! YOU ARE OBSESSED! DRIVEN BY AN UNQUENCHABLE THIRST FOR VENGEANCE AND RETRIBUTION!
YOU ARE WELL ON THE ROAD TO BECOMING ANOTHER RUTHLESS MURDERER LIKE THE PREVIOUS BLOODAXE!
ALL OF HUMANITY IS SHAPED BY THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH DEATH!
YOU'RE CERTAINLY NO EXCEPTION! I HELPED CREATE YOU! HELPED RAISE YOU TO THIS EXTRAORDINARY LEVEL OF POWER!

IN SO MANY WAYS... YOU'RE LIKE A SON TO ME!
KILLING DEATH IS SO REDUNDANT! DON'T SQUANDER YOUR POTENTIAL, MY BOY! JOIN ME!
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY KILL ME... UNLESS YOU COMPLETELY SURRENDERED YOURSELF...TO THE AXE!
THE COST WOULD BE THE LOSS OF YOUR SOUL! THE FORFEITURE OF YOUR VERY HUMANITY!
IN ESSENCE...YOU WOULD BECOME ME!

SHKOW!
YOU NEED A NEW RAP, SNAKE MAN...
THAT "COME TO THE DARK SIDE" NOISE WAS ALREADY OLD IN THE EIGHTIES!
I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU!
SO PLEASE... SHUT UP!

JUST THEN AT JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT..

MOM! BOBBY! CHECK IT OUT!

WHERE IS ERIC? HE SAID HE'D BE HERE!

THIS IS MEGA-COOL!

FACE IT MARCY! YOUR EX IS A NO SHOW! YOU KNOW HOW MASTERSON FEELS ABOUT ME MOVING YOU AND KEVIN TO THE WEST COAST!

IT DOESN'T MATTER! HE OWES IT TO HIS SON TO SAY GOOD BYE!

THE POOR KID MUST BE DYING INSIDE!

COME ON! THEY'RE GETTING READY TO CLOSE THE PASSENGER RAMP! WE'VE GOT TO BOARD THE PLANE!

SWEETIE... WE HAVE TO GO! I'M SORRY BUT I DON'T THINK YOUR DAD IS... UH...

NO PROBLEM, MOM! I'LL GIVE HIM A CALL AFTER WE LAND! I KNOW HE'D BE HERE IF HE COULD..

HE'S PROBABLY OUT SAVING THE WORLD OR SOMETHING! YOU KNOW DAD!

SAVING THE WORLD...?!

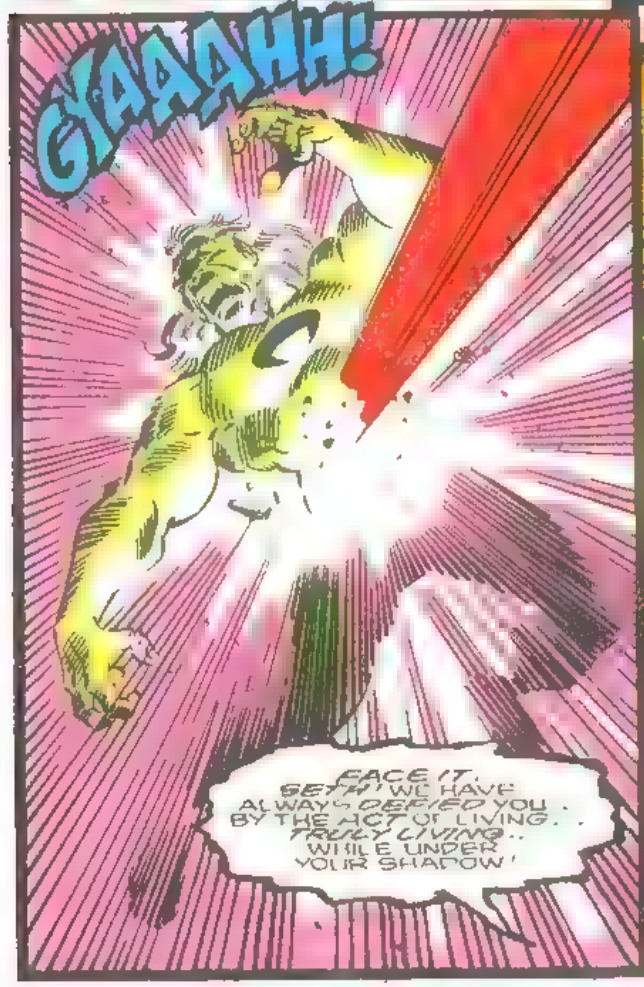
CALIFORNIA, HERE I COMME...

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE FIGHTING, POP, BUT

"-- GIVE 'IM ONE FOR ME!"
CHOOM!
ENOUGH! THIS CHILDISH HISSY FIT IS ONLY DELAYING THE INEVITABLE.
YOUR FATE HAS BEEN SEALED SINCE THAT MOMENT!
I PLACED MY MARK UPON YOU WEEKS AGO! THE MARK OF DEATH!
YOUR DESTRUCTION HAS MERELY AWAITED MY PLEASURE!
I WOULD HAVE BEEN CONTENT TO ALLOW YOU TO LIVE IN FEAR AWHILE LONGER, BUT NOW --!
HA
KWOW!!!
HOO-BOY! IS IT JUST ME FROG FACE OR DO YOU HAVE A SEVERE ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER?!
TODAY IS THE DAY YOU LEARN TO LIVE IN FEAR!
YOU EXPERIENCE PAIN AND HUMILIATION!
YOU DISCOVER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO DIE!

YOU OFTEN JOKE ABOUT THE WAY YOU CASUALLY EXPLOIT MANKIND!
YOU SNICKER ABOUT THE FACT THAT DEATH IS AS UNDENIABLE AS IT IS UNAVOIDABLE!
THE LAUGHTER ENDS NOW!

EVER SINCE THE FIRST MAN WAS BORN OF WOMAN, WE KNEW DEATH AWAITED US! IT DIDN'T MATTER! IT DIDN'T STOP US!
WE STILL BUILT MONUMENTS AND NATIONS! WE STILL CREATED ART, AND LEARNED TO CONTROL SCIENCE!
WE STILL CHALLENGED OUR MINDS WITH PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE! WE STILL IGNORED OUR ANIMAL FEARS, AND ROUTINELY DEFIED THE UNKNOWN!


GYAAAHH!
FACE IT, SETH! WE HAVE ALWAYS DEFIED YOU BY THE ACT OF LIVING... TRULY LIVING... WHILE UNDER YOUR SHADOW!

OH AND BY THE WAY
AND I TRULY MEAN THIS WITH ALL MY HEART
I
HOPE
THIS
HURTS!

MEANWHILE, FAR BEYOND THE PALE OF MORTAL MAN AND LIVING GOD STANDS A LAND SHROUDED BY MIST AND LEGEND.
VALHALLA, HOME OF THE HONORED DEAD!
VALHALLA, WHERE THE SLAIN HEROES OF ASGARD EXULT IN ENDLESS BATTLE!
WELCOME, TRAVELER!
THE LAND IS MADE RICHER BY THY VISIT!
HAIL, SKRUGG! GREETINGS TO THEE WHO ONCE BORE THE MANTLE OF THE EXECUTIONER, AND SACRIFICED HIS ALL IN DEFENSE OF THE GOLDEN REALM!
LONG AND HARD HAS BEEN MY JOURNEY! HARDER STILL IS THE BOON WHICH I MUST NOW ASK OF THEE!
THY PRESENCE IS NOT UNEXPECTED, ALL-FATHER!
I, TOO, HAVE SENSED THE GROWING BEAST... AND THE BITTER TRAGEDY... WHICH NOW LOOMS AS GOOD AND EVIL CLASH UPON THE BATTLEFIELD.
OF ONE MAN'S SOUL!

GAME'S OVER, SMARTEMAN!

YOU... CANNOT... KILL... ME...

YOU'RE STARTING TO BORE ME, SETH!

I EXPECTED A LITTLE MORE GRATUITOUS BRAVADO. BUT THAT LAST REMARK BARELY RATES AS WISHFUL THINKING!

I AM DEATH, YOU FOOL!

DEATH!

THE SWEET OBLIVION WHICH I OFFER TO OTHERS WILL NEVER BE MINE TO BE EMBRACED.

YOU MAY DESTROY THIS PARTICULAR BODY! YOU MAY BANISH MY PHYSICAL PRESENCE FROM THIS SPECIFIC REALM! BUT I WILL SURVIVE!

I WILL ALWAYS SURVIVE!

A TEMPORARY VICTORY IS THE MOST YOU CAN EVER HOPE TO ACHIEVE!

REALLY...?

SHRA

KWOOM!

SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY GOOD DEAL TO ME

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
BA-DOOM!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
LIKE I SAID, SERPENT BREATH ...
YOUR TIME IS OVER!
YOU ARE DONE!
THUNDERSTRIKE!
NOW IT'S MY TURN!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

WE SAW YOU, MISTER! WE ARRIVED JUST AS YOU COMMITTED COLD-BLOODED MURDER!

IF WE HADN'T WITNESSED IT WITH OUR OWN EYES--

CALM DOWN, EVERYONE! I'M SURE STRIKE HAS AN EXPLANATION!

DO NOT DEFEND HIM BLACK WIDOW! NOTHING CAN JUSTIFY HIS ACTIONS!

DROP YOUR WEAPONS, THUNDERSTRIKE! DON'T FORCE US TO FIGHT YOU!

IT'S TOO LATE, CAPTAIN AMERICA NEITHER ONE OF US CAN STOP THAT NOW!

YOU HEARD HIM AVENGERS! BE PREPARED TO SUBDUE HIM WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, CAP! HE'S ONE OF OUR OWN!

NO! NOT ANY LONGER! IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HE'S SOMEHOW BECOME A NEW INCARNATION OF THAT BLOODAXE CHARACTER AND ONLY THE AVENGERS CAN TAKE HIM DOWN!

THANKS FOR THE RECAP FOR THE CHEAP SEATS, BULLET-HEAD!

SETH WAS RIGHT! I HAD TO SURRENDER MY MIND AND SOUL... TO THE AXE. TO DO WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE!

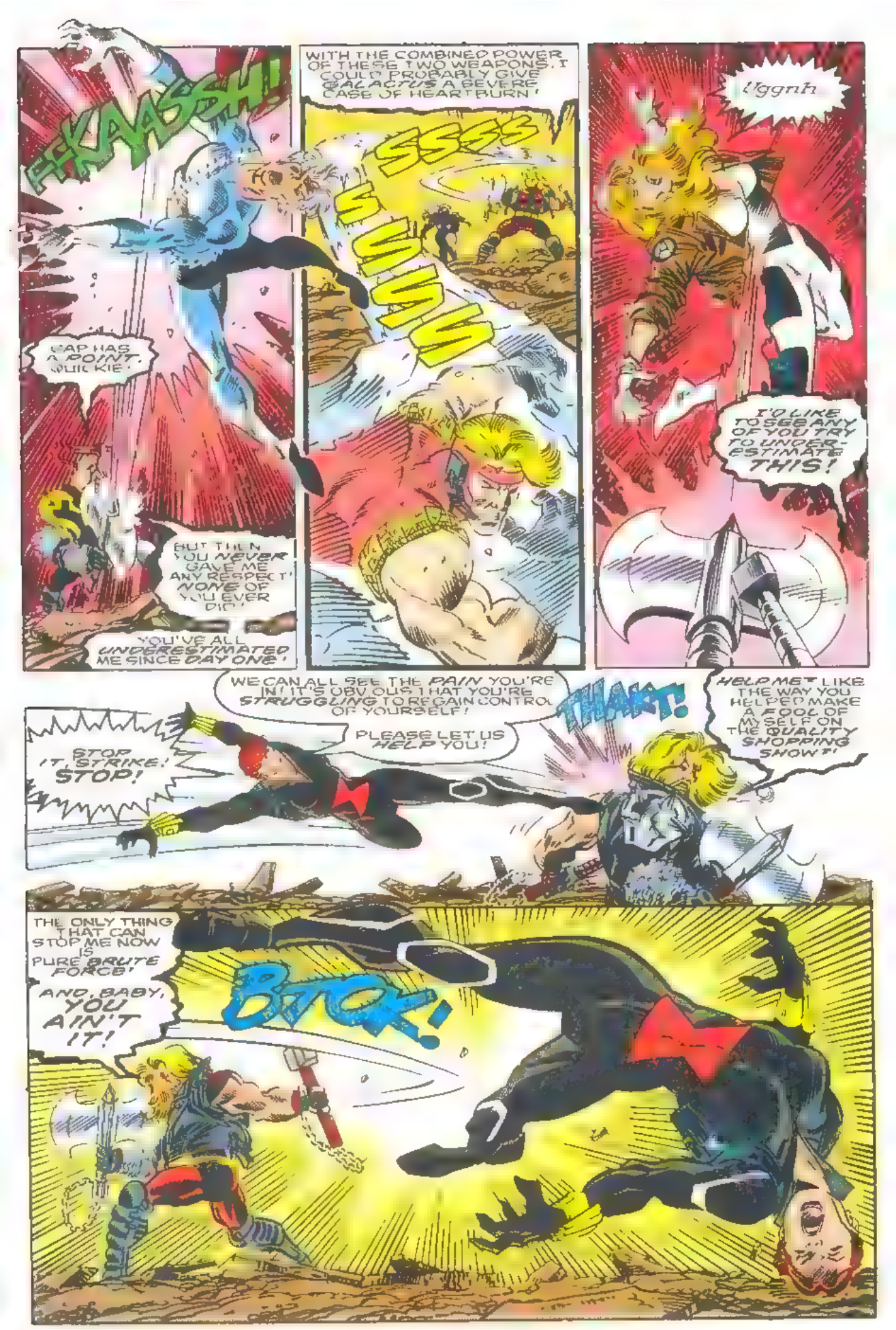
NOW, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT--?!

THE ARROGANCE! THE INSUFFERABLE ARROGANCE!

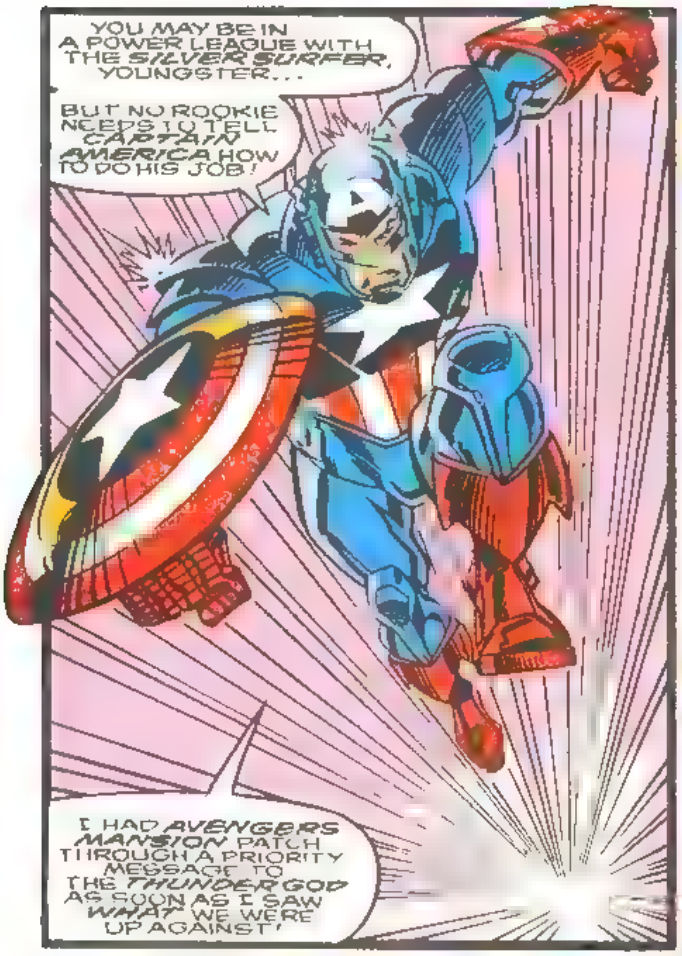
IT IS TIME YOU LEARNED, PRETENDER... WHAT IT MEANS TO CHALLENGE THE AVENGERS!

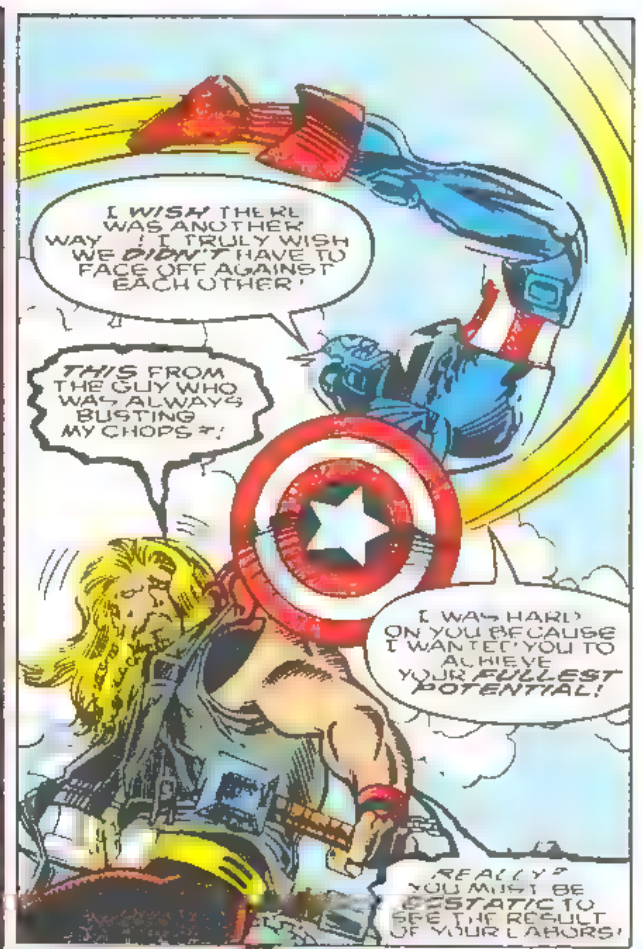
QUICKSILVER-- NO!

YOU MUSTN'T RUSH OFF ON YOUR OWN!


FKAASSH!
CAP HAS A POINT, QUICKIE!
BUT THEN YOU NEVER GAVE ME ANY RESPECT! NONE OF YOU EVER DID!
YOU'VE ALL UNDERESTIMATED ME SINCE DAY ONE!
WITH THE COMBINED POWER OF THESE TWO WEAPONS, I COULD PROBABLY GIVE GALACTUS A SEVERE CASE OF HEARTBURN!
SSSS
SSSS
Uggnh
I'D LIKE TO SEE ANY OF YOU TRY TO UNDER-ESTIMATE THIS!
WE CAN ALL SEE THE PAIN YOU'RE IN! IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE STRUGGLING TO REGAIN CONTROL OF YOURSELF!
PLEASE LET US HELP YOU!
THAKT!
HELP ME? LIKE THE WAY YOU HELPED MAKE A FOOL OF MYSELF ON THE QUALITY SHOPPING SHOW?!
STOP IT, STRIKE! STOP!
THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP ME NOW IS PURE BRUTE FORCE!
AND, BABY, YOU AIN'T IT!
BIK!

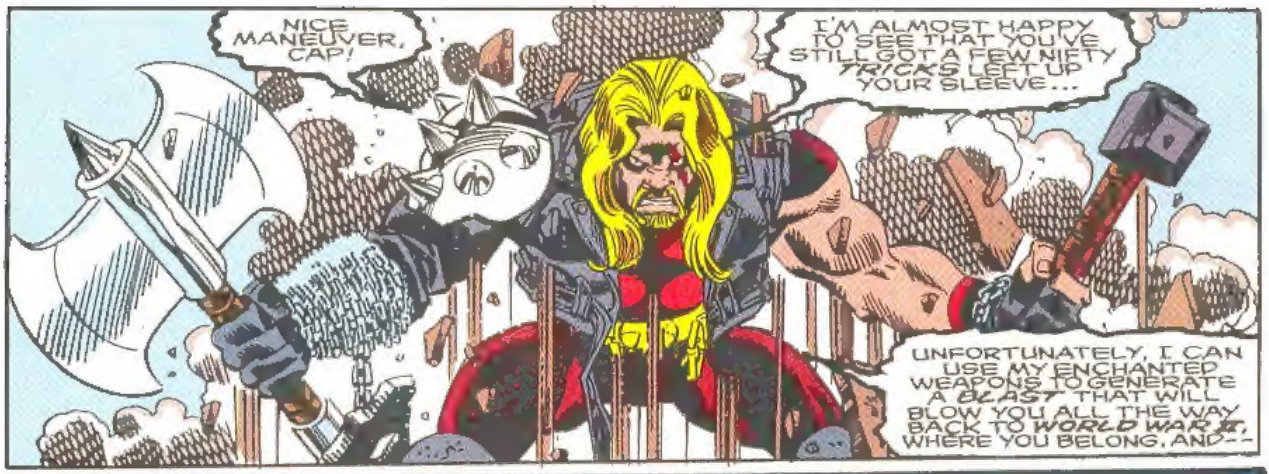
SQUAAK
YIELD ERIC! I HEREBY YIELD! THE PRINCE OF POWER HAS NO DESIRE TO HARM YOU!
UNDERSTATEMENT.. CONSIDERING THE WAY YOU PULLED THAT PUNCH!
BIG MISTAKE, HERO!
PAWOOM!
OF RESPECT FOR OUR PAST FRIENDSHIP, I'M REMOVING YOU FROM THE GAME! BUT MY GUARDS TO NEW JERSEY!
PAA THETIC!
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES! I ALL KNEW WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE
THE BATTLE IS NOT YET OVER, MASTERSON!
I AM TRULY SORRY THAT IT HAS COME TO THIS, BUT I'LL FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT YOU!
I'LL FIND A WAY!
YOU LOOK LIKE A REAL GEEK IN THAT NEW ARMORED COSTUME, CAP!
WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE GRIEF I USED TO HEAR ABOUT BEING A SHIELD-BEARER! GOD TRAINER! HOO BOY! DOES IRON MAN HAVE A CASE AGAINST YOU!
I'M NOT TO PLAY HERO AND RUN FOR THE HILLS!
CALL THOR!
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WITH A PRAYER AGAINST ME!


YOU MAY BE IN A POWER LEAGUE WITH THE SILVER SURFER, YOUNGSTER...
BUT NO ROOKIE NEEDS TO TELL CAPTAIN AMERICA HOW TO DO HIS JOB!
I HAD AVENGERS MANSION PATCH THROUGH A PRIORITY MESSAGE TO THE THUNDER GOD AS SOON AS I SAW WHAT WE WERE UP AGAINST!


I WISH THERE WAS ANOTHER WAY! I TRULY WISH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO FACE OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER!
THIS FROM THE GUY WHO WAS ALWAYS BUSTING MY CHOPS?!
I WAS HARD ON YOU BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO ACHIEVE YOUR FULLEST POTENTIAL!
REALLY? YOU MUST BE ECSTATIC TO SEE THE RESULT OF YOUR LABORS!

HERE'S WHERE I RETURN THE FAVOR, AND - WHAT THE?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO OUR TRAINING SESSIONS, MASTERSON!

KBASH!
I ROUTINELY TOLD YOU THAT EVERY FOE - NO MATTER HOW MUCH POWER HE POSSESSED - WAS STILL GOVERNED BY THE FORCES OF LEVERAGE, MOMENTUM AND GRAVITY!



GOOD TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND!

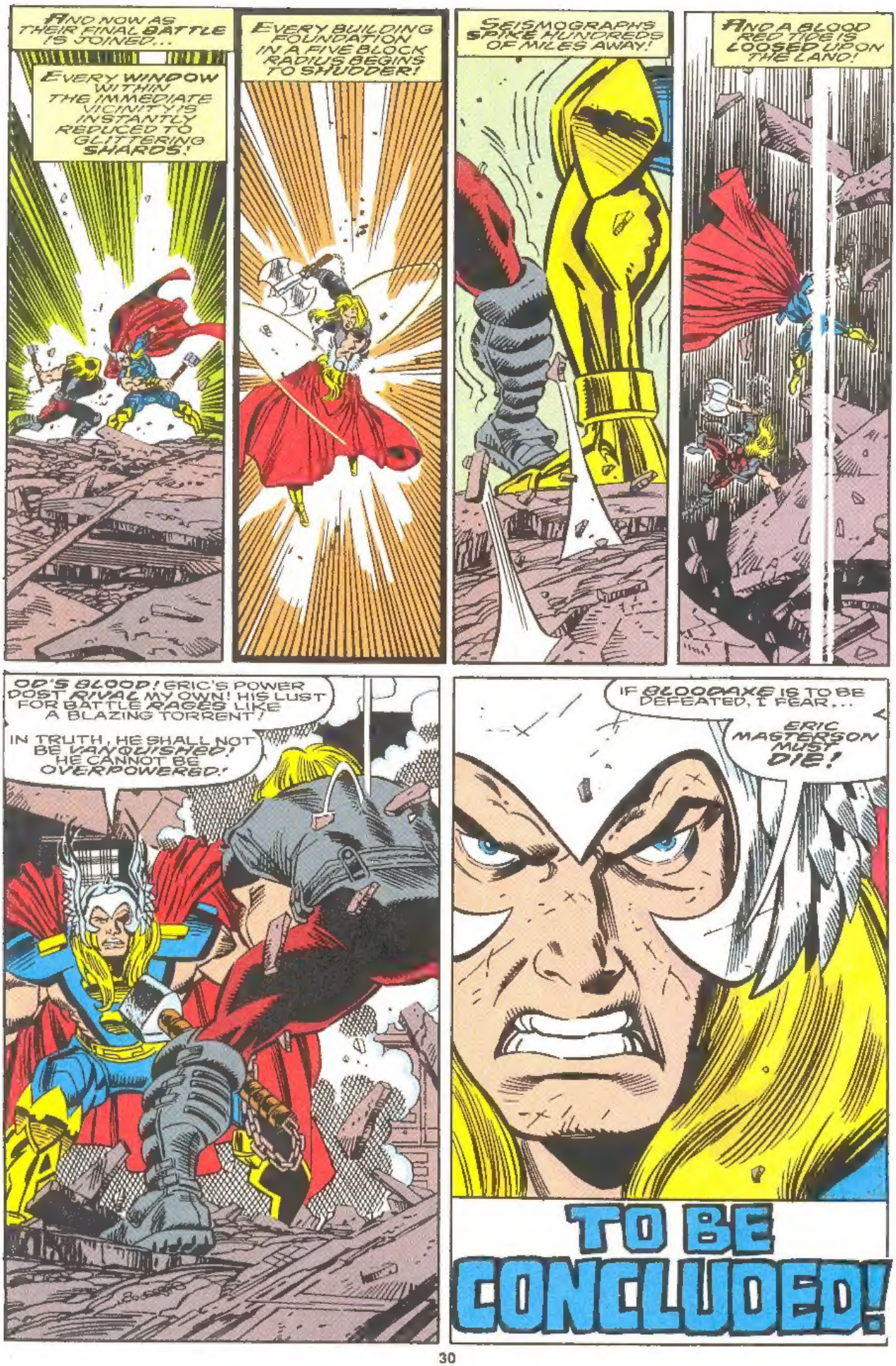
MY HOLDING ACTION WAS JUST ABOUT EXHAUSTED!

YOUR WORK HERE IS FINISHED, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

THE ENCHANTED WEAPONS WHICH THUNDERSTRIKE DOST WIELD WERE BOTH CREATED ON ETERNAL ASGARD!

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR DISPOSAL MUST FALL TO THE MIGHTY THOR!

STOP ME, THOR!
PLEASE STOP ME!
IF YOU CAN!
ERIC...
I SHALL NOT FAIL THEE!
ONCE UPON A TIME, THESE TWO WERE UNITED BY MAGIC!
BONDED BODY AND SOUL, THEY SHARED A SINGLE EXISTENCE!
BA-THOOM!
THEY KNEW EACH OTHER'S THOUGHTS... AND DESIRES... FEARS AND INSECURITIES... TRIUMPHS AND FAILURES!
THEY WERE TRULY ONE!


AND NOW AS THEIR FINAL BATTLE IS JOINED...
EVERY WINDOW WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY IS INSTANTLY REDUCED TO GLITTERING SHARDS!
EVERY BUILDING FOUNDATION IN A FIVE BLOCK RADIUS BEGINS TO SHUDDER!
SEISMOGRAPHS SPIKE HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY!
AND A BLOOD RED TIDE IS LOOSED UPON THE LAND!
OD'S BLOOD! ERIC'S POWER DOST RIVAL MY OWN! HIS LUST FOR BATTLE RAGES LIKE A BLAZING TORRENT!
IN TRUTH, HE SHALL NOT BE VANQUISHED! HE CANNOT BE OVERPOWERED!
IF BLOODAXE IS TO BE DEFEATED, I FEAR...
ERIC MASTERSON MUST DIE!
TO BE CONCLUDED!

THE THUNDER STRIKES!

c/o Marvel Comics 387 Park Ave South New York, NY 10016 (addresses withheld by request)
Ralph Macchio: Waste Matt Idelson: Asst. Waste

Well, this is it, the penultimate issue of the THUNDERSTRIKE saga. How best to spend these last waning moments together before next issue's grand finale? Well, Titanic Tom suggested we pull quotes from various letters rather than just printing a select few, so that we could include as many of you, the faithful fans who've been along for this wild and wacky ride, as possible. Since we could never say no to Tom (except for that invite to the cotillion), we're going to do just that.

Dear Ralph and Matt,
THUNDERSTRIKE is always the title I read first when it comes out among the other stack of books that I buy. The creative team has always put care and effort into this title.

Chris Karnes

Dear Mr. Macchio, et al:
Hoo boy, you really know how to keep us members of the no-prize patrol on our toes.

Chris Nemec

Sheesh. Well, at least this title has something for everyone.

Dear Thunderstrikers,
I enjoyed Eric Masterson's role as Thor II, but as Thunderstrike, he is far more the hero...Every issue of THUNDERSTRIKE is more exciting than the last.

Wade Carmen

Dear Thunderstrikers,
I really like this comic and the art and stories are excellent...I love books that use humorous situations once in a while.

Scott McClean

Well, we always said Tom and Ron were the Rowan and Martin of comics. (But only behind their backs!)

Dear Thunderstrike,
I enjoyed your first issue of THUNDERSTRIKE and I'm going to get the second issue.

Shamar Walker

Whoops! Were did *that* come from?

Dear T-Strikes,
First of all, I want you to know that you are the best cast on a single comic title. The result, the best title I have ever read.

Reza Meladi

On behalf of the entire team... *blush*

Dear Thunder Strikes,
I just found out that you are going to end the story. So I just wanted to say, "*please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please do not end THUNDERSTRIKE.*"

William Henderson

Dear Mace Wielders,
...a couple of mace maniacs here in Texas (who) have been following Eric since his Thor pajama-wearing days.

Bert & Chris

"Pajama-wearing days"?

Dear Strikers of Thunder,
For quite some time now, I, along with everyone else who has been reading the exploits of Eric Masterson, first as Thor and now as Thunderstrike, have been trying to piece together the mystery of Bloodaxe's identity.

Greg Uebele

Bloodaxe?!?! *Bloodaxe?!?!?!* Arrrrrgggggghhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!! (Followed by the sound of breaking glass and two bodies hitting the street ten stories below with a sickening thud.)

Dear Ralph and Matt,
I've thoroughly enjoyed this title from the beginning, and I look forward to many happy years of reading THUNDERSTRIKE.

Brian Marcos

A tad too late, perhaps, but the sentiment is most definitely appreciated.

Thunderheads,
(This) comic is regularly gripping, exciting, and original, so please let the loyal fans in on the reasoning for ending the best new comic in the ever-changing Marvel Universe.

Eric J. Johnson

The reasoning was given last issue on this very page. While no one is very happy about this, we can only try to face it with stoicism and dream of the new mountains that remain to be conquered in the future.

Dear Thunderstrikers,
THUNDERSTRIKE is awesome! I mean, Eric is my idol. He's the kind of person who tries to take a peaceful approach to things, and that's why I love 'im.

Joe Thornhill

Intermission

(think lounge music, kiddies)

Dear Thunderstrikers,
(I)t was great to see the best interpretation of the Jade Giantess (She-Hulk) I've seen in years. Ron Frenz's art hasn't looked better.

David Annand

Tom and the gang:
I congratulate you on a job well done. You have succeeded where many other comics have failed. You have made a character who, though he is potentially the most powerful character in the Marvel Universe, is also by far the most human; and that is wonderful to see.

Joe Cosgrove

Dear Tom and Ron,
Great job so far. I really look forward to this book every month.

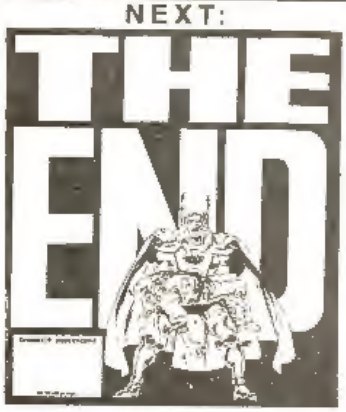
Jason Sinclair

Dear Tom and Ron,
T-STRIKE is great, but why can't it come out twice a month?

Nichelle Johnson

***ahem* Perhaps that's enough mail for today!**

NEXT:



The final chapter. Look out, world, 'cause Thunderaxe, no, sorry, Bloodstrike, no Axe Masterson... dang! Whatever he's called, he's pure evil, and only one being throughout the cosmos can stop him. But will Thor have to kill the man he calls friend to save him? It's historical, it's wonderful, it's horrific, and it's frightening. And one last time, it's by Tom, Ron, and Al.